

**THE FRENCH IN AMERICA
DURING THE WAR OF
INDEPENDENCE
OF THE UNITED STATES,
1777-1783. VOL. II, PP. 1-251**

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THOMAS BALCH & E. S. BALCH & E. W. BALCH

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The French in America

DURING THE

War of Independence of the United States

1777-1783. 49472

A TRANSLATION BY

EDWIN SWIFT BALCH
AND
ELISE WILLING BALCH,

OF

LES FRANÇAIS EN AMÉRIQUE

PENDANT LA

Guerre de L'Indépendance des États-Unis.

PAR

THOMAS BALCH.

VOL. II.

PHILADELPHIA:
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1895.

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TRANSLATOR'S NOTE.

My father intended to publish the second volume of "Les Français en Amérique" in France, but after he had received the proofs from the printer, he decided not to do so, because, as he says in the preface: "I received for the second part so large a number of interesting communications that I have found myself obliged to add to my finished manuscript." He purposed also rewriting some of the biographical notices.

The present volume is a translation from these proofs, with the addition of the numerous manuscript notes in the margin. Most of these notes are in my father's handwriting. These I have inserted as notes, with the explanation: "Marginal note by T. B." A few other notes were added in a revision of the book made at the "Archives" of the French Navy. These I have inserted as notes, with the explanation: "Marginal note." My one aim in translating has been accuracy. I have been as literal as possible, and have tried to get the absolute meaning of every sentence.

The references, *Archives* of War or *Archives* of the Navy, refer to the French *Archives*.

The ranks of *maréchal de camp*, *brigadier*, and *mestre de camp* occur frequently in the course of the book. These were ranks in the French army before the French Revolution, of which we have no exact counterparts in English. M. Littré gives the following explanations about them in his dictionary: *Maréchal de camp*: general officer, whose rank is immediately above that of colonel, and who corresponds to the rank of general of brigade. Formerly, their office was to march ahead of the armies to make sure of the road and arrange the camps. *Brigadier*: officer in the armies of the King, whose rank was

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between that of a colonel and a *maréchal de camp*. *Mestre de camp*: colonel of a regiment of infantry or cavalry. *Mestre de camp général de la cavalerie*: officer who ranked next to the colonel-general of the cavalry. The *livre* was a piece of money in use before the *franc*, and slightly less in value.

To the names of the kind friends of my father, mentioned in the "Translator's Note" to the first volume, I wish to add those of General of Artillery Susane; General Favé, commandant of the "école polytechnique" and aid-de-camp of Napoleon the Third; M. de Parieu; and Friedrich Kapp, member of the German Reichstag.

EDWIN SWIFT BALCH.

PHILADELPHIA, May 1st, 1895.

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